

**2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 10
Horseshoe Casino
Cincinnati, OH
Event #10
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300(+\$65)
Total Entries: 203
Prize Pool: \$60,900
September 28-29, 2013**



Pavlin Karakikov Puts Bulgaria on the Board in Cincinnati

Five-time WSOP Circuit final tablist finds some luck in his sixth appearance, earns gold.

Cincinnati, OH (September 30, 2013) — It took six tries, but Bulgarian Pavlin Karakikov won his first WSOP Circuit gold ring Sunday night in Cincinnati. Previously Karakikov finished eighth, fifth twice, fourth and runner-up, but didn't break through until he came to the Queen City. His most recent success came in a \$365 No-Limit Hold'em tournament and awarded Karakikov \$11,589, a WSOP Circuit gold ring and 50 points toward the WSOP National Championship – a tournament he placed 10th in last year.

“I was close before and I was kind of disappointed I didn't win. Now I would have been even more disappointed if I hadn't won because I had the chip lead,” Karakikov said.

Saying he had the chip lead is a bit of an understatement. Karakikov held an almost 10-to-1 advantage over Jason Gwinn during heads-up play. He doubled up his adversary and had him on the ropes a handful of times only to see the board run out to a split pot. In the end, Karakikov's lead was insurmountable and Gwinn finished second for \$11,589.

Karakikov says poker is very big in Bulgaria and the talent to come out of the country has left its mark on the WSOP, earning a gold bracelet each of the last two summers. 2012 WSOP gold bracelet winner and two-time Circuit gold ring winner Nick Jivkov is one of the biggest poker success stories to come out of the country and Karakikov says the two are friends on the Circuit.

“He's a friendly guy so we talk a lot,” Karakikov said of Jivkov. “Usually when we talk about poker we'll speak English because it's easier. Like ‘three-bet’ and stuff, you know?”

Karakikov hopes to join Jivkov as a gold bracelet winner some day and says he'll take a step toward that by attending the WSOP this summer.

When he isn't playing poker Karakikov works in real estate and says he flips residential properties. He says the majority of his bankroll is invested in real estate so he primarily plays smaller buy-in tournaments. Karakikov came to the United States six years ago in a student program and he decided to make a life for himself in the country.

